

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 8, 2007**

The Williamsburg City Council held a work session on Monday, January 8, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers of the Stryker Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Ms. Zeidler, Messrs. Haulman, Chohany, Freiling, and Braxton. Also present were City Manager Tuttle, City Attorney Phillips, and City Clerk Crist.

Staff Attending: Assistant City Manager Miller, Department Heads Serra and Nester, Economic Development Manager DeWitt, and Assistant City Attorney Workman.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler asked for public comment.

Jim Kammert, 108 Richmond Hill Court, presented Council with 27 additional signatures to the petition "Vote No On Increasing Unit Density," for a total of 522. Mr. Kammert read his prepared remarks regarding the density issue and recapped the feedback he received while circulating the Stop 22 petition. (attached)

Terrance Wehle, 402 Harriet Tubman Drive, addressed Council about the proposed zoning changes to be considered at Council's January 11 meeting (PCR #s 06-39, 06-40, 06-41). He was concerned about the proposed increase in the gross floor area from 50 percent to 67 percent on any lot devoted to multifamily use in the B-2 District (Corridor Business). He asked how the B-2 rezoning would affect population and the areas to be rezoned. The 50 percent rule has not been taken advantage of in the past, but with 67 percent, it may be taken advantage of which could affect density. He referenced recent articles in the *Washington Post* and *New York Times* regarding halting development and implementing new rezoning rules.

No one else wished to speak. The session was closed.

BACKGROUND PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Williamsburg Regional Library—Space Needs/Facilities Study, Briefing by Library Director John Moorman

Mr. Moorman presented Council with a copy of the study report "Williamsburg Regional Library, Space Needs/Facility Study, December 10, 2006, by PSA-Dewberry" and provided a brief overview of the study requested by the Library's Board. The board received the report at its December 20, 2006 meeting, and will meet with the consultant again in January.

Mr. Moorman reviewed the summary of the report and read from the conclusion of the Executive Summary (attached) which addressed the need for a third library facility, current library needs, and a proposed annex building for the Williamsburg Library.

Mr. Moorman emphasized that the Williamsburg Library could not provide additional services for the public unless a major function was removed. It has no place to grow. The consultant recommended the administrative and IT staffs be moved to an annex facility, as well as other functions such as the Friends Book Nook.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Moorman for copies of the report. The Library has grown and it seems that some of the recommendations make good sense. She hoped that the consultant did not recommend that one of three entrances to the Library be closed. Council members want to encourage pedestrian friendly streets and a friendly atmosphere. Mr. Moorman understood Council's concern and the closing of an entrance was not recommended. The Library will cope with the challenges of having three entrances.

Mr. Haulman said this will provide an opportunity to improve Library services even more.

Mr. Moorman responded to Mr. Chohany that there is a need to start planning for a third library. It is difficult to find parking, seating, and collections cannot be expanded unless something is removed. Some of the heavy use of the city location could be transferred to a third library. There are potential sites on Jamestown Road and the Monticello Avenue extension. Discussions are underway with the County about these locations.

Mr. Freiling thanked Mr. Moorman and his staff for their work. He remarked about the comparison with Virginia peer facilities and where the Williamsburg Regional Library fits in that range as far as population base served. It has 20% more circulation than the second place Library and almost twice the circulation as the third place library. Mr. Moorman said the excellent support received from the city and county helps the library to provide excellent service.

Mayor Zeidler said she was proud to live in a community that has such a wonderful Library.

Heritage Humane Society, Report on New Facility, Lynne Christensen, Executive Director

Mr. Tuttle said that later this month, the Heritage Humane Society (HHS) would break ground for its new facility on Waller Mill Road. This was a good time for Council to receive a progress report.

Ms. Lynne Christensen, Executive Director of HHS, said she appreciated the opportunity to be at the meeting and share a rendering of the new facility. She was pleased with the support received for this public/private partnership. The new shelter will provide a safe environment for the animals in our area. The 9500 square foot facility will meet all state code requirements for animal shelters for surrender, adoption, and humane education programs. Eventually spay/neuter services will be provided.

The facility will be located on property next to the present location. The site has been cleared and construction is expected to be completed in the fall. Inflation contributed to the cost of \$2.8 million. She introduced the Director of Development, Ms. Christie Chipps, who has worked on the capital campaign. To date they have raised more than \$1,000,013, and continue to solicit. Ms. Christensen invited Council members to attend the ground breaking ceremony on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, at 12 Noon.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Ms. Christensen and congratulated the Human Society. Council members appreciated the services provided by HHS and the public/private partnership. This facility will be a wonderful addition to the community.

Preview of January 11, 2007 Council Meeting

No additional information was requested.

Mr. Freiling asked that a map showing the areas proposed to be rezoned and any change in density in corridor areas be available at Thursday's meeting. Mr. Nester clarified that density would not change from 14 units per acre. With the proposed floor area ratio, the size of the units may change, but the density cannot be greater than 14 units per acre.

City Council Communications

Building Official Leaving: Mayor Zeidler announced that John Catlett will be leaving the city to take a job with the Commonwealth. He has been one of the premier building code officials in the state and leaves large shoes to fill.

Neighborhood Council: Mr. Haulman said there was good discussion at the January 6 Neighborhood Council meeting and suggested Council members may want to read those minutes.

Schedule of Meetings: January 2007

Mr. Haulman asked that the WRHA meeting be added back on the monthly calendar.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Zeidler asked for public comment.

Richard Burke, 209 Suri Drive, spoke concerning the visitor exchange ordinance. He is enjoying the focus group that was created to hear input from citizens and businesses regarding this issue. He said that Mr. Nester was invaluable; the direction he gave and the people that participated. His proposal is wonderful. He mentioned three things:

1. He endorsed making the annual process a special exemption process using the Board of Zoning Appeals, rather than City Council.
2. Consider that some brokerage firms do not arrange lodging for students, and that students need to arrange for their own.
3. Rethinking the separate bed requirement. The motel owner would have to buy bunk beds for each room, so that it becomes an expense and storage issue.

He thanked Council for the opportunity to serve and he thought the ordinance would now serve everyone.

Mayor thanked Mr. Burke for his service and for volunteering.

David Bryhn, Rochambeau Motel, thanked Mr. Burke. He addressed the separate bed and square footage requirements in the proposed ordinance. He asked Council to consider that it would be of great inconvenience and expense for a three month period. Working with the exchange visitors is stressful. He asked that the process be fair to all motel owners. At the town meeting at Patriot Chevrolet, he learned that some people are not reputable that are bringing exchange visitors to this area. Some of the kids are living together in one

apartment; and he has heard about 14 living together. He asked the Council not to make the stipulations too stiff for hoteliers so that the program will work.

Rick Hines, 217 Second Street, spoke regarding the exchange visitor program. He referenced the November town meeting at Patriot Chevrolet. They heard from Dave Spencer from Busch Gardens about the students they employed last year, and Chris Byrd non-profit organization brings these students here. The employer and sponsoring organization are not required to provide housing. Some of these college age students come here on reciprocal programs and many come back. Chief Weiler, Major Jay Sexton and Dennis Baines said that the College is a greater drain on city services than what the student workers are. These kids are victims of crimes, not perpetrators. Regarding the upcoming rezoning in the area of DMV, some people in Brandywyne are concerned about the triangle piece across from DMV. The property is small and he supported the rezoning. He favored the increase to 67% of floor area as a move in the right direction. It will provide for larger, more desirable, units with no increase in density. His family is directly affected by the zoning changes and supports them.

Mayor Zeidler thanked Mr. Hines for the information.

Mr. Wehle felt that the increase to 67% of floor area would increase the probability of development. In reality this will make a great difference to density. He asked as a practical matter, what would the density be?

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Haulman Moved that City Council go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing one property matter per subparagraph 3, regarding acquisition of property for public use of which discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect bargaining or negotiation strategy of public body. The Motion Was Seconded by Mr. Freiling.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m. The Mayor called a five-minute recess.

At 3:30 p.m. Council met in Open Session.

Mr. Haulman Moved the Certification of Closed Meeting. The Motion was Seconded by Mr. Chohany.

Recorded Vote on the Motion:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Date: January 8, 2007

Motion: Mr. Haulman Second: Mr. Freiling

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamsburg has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Williamsburg hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered by the City of Williamsburg.

VOTE:

Aye: Freiling, Braxton, Zeidler, Haulman, Chohany

No: None

Absent During Vote: None

Absent During Meeting: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Approved: February 8, 2007

Mayor Jeanne Zeidler

Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council